

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02240 141630Z

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9616

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGVO, ZA

SUBJ: KAUNDA'S SPEECH TO OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: IN ONE AND A HALF HOUR ADDRESS DEC 13 TO OPENING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT KAUNDA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PEACEFUL ELECTIONS JUST CONCLUDED UNDER NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM; SAW NEW OPPORTUNITIES UNDER ONE PARTY FOR ACCELERATED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH INCREASED ZAMBIAN PARTICIPATION AND CONTROL, BUT WARNED MP'S ABOUT "SUBVERSIVE" USE OF LEGISLATIVE POSTS FOR COUNTER REVOLUTION AND MONETARY GAIN. FINALLY, KAUNDA RENEWED APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ELIMINATE CAUSES OF ESCALATING TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

2. DOMESTIC: PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF DOMESTICS SCENE WAS HEAVY WITH BOILERPLATE ON VIRTUES AND BENEFITS OF HUMANISM; POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT; EVILS OF CRIME, DRUNKENNESS AND CARELESS DRIVING; AND NATIONAL NEED FOR HIGHER MORAL
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02240 141630Z

STANDARDS. "YOU LOOK AT SOME SO-CALLED CIVILIZED COUNTRIES AND SEE HOW FAR CORRUPTION, BRIBERY AND OTHER INDISCRETIONS HAVE

VIRTUALLY ERODED THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS." NOTEWORTHY WAS PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIAL FARMERS WHILE HELPING SMALL FARMERS.

3. FOREIGN: ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SEEN AS CONTINUED THREAT TO ZAMBIAN SECURITY WHICH CAN ONLY BE ELIMINATED AT ROOT CAUSES. PRESIDENT ENJOINED (A) UK TO DISCHARGE OBLIGATIONS TO RHODESIAN MAJORITY; (B) SOUTH AFRICA TO REMOVE ITS MILITARY FROM RHODESIA; (C) WEST TO DISCONTINUE OVERT AND COVERT SUPPORT FOR RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA; AND (D) INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS. PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID MILITARY VICTORY IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE IMPOSSIBLE. PORTUGAL MUST FACE UP TO REALITY AND WORK TOWARD POLITICAL SOLUTION. ZAMBIA AND OTHER SIGNATORIES OF LUSAKA MANIFESTO DISPOSED TO ASSIST IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIONAL LEADERS.

4. ISRAELI EXPANSIONIST POLICY IN MIDEAST CONDEMNED AND SOLIDARITY OF AFRICAN AND ARAB PEOPLE WELCOMED. PROGRESS NOTED IN STRENGTHENED ZAMBIAN RELATIONS WITH CLOSE NEIGHBORS AND INCREASED CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION ON CONTINENT IN PURSUIT OF AFRICAN UNITY.

5. IN DISCUSSING SOUTHERN AFRICAN PRESIDENT'S VOICE BROKE AND IN EMOTION-FILLED EXTEMPORANEOUS PAUSE, HE CRITICIZED WEST FOR SALE OF HELICOPTERS USED TO LAND SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN TROOPS ON ZAMBIAN SOIL AND KILL ZAMBIANS (LUSAKA 2231).

6. COMMENT: KAUNDA'S MOOD COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S OPENING OF PARLIAMENT WAS LESS DRAMATIC AND MORE SOMBER, BUT CONFIDENT AFTER HIS RECENT VICTORY AT POLLS. THERE WAS NO OPEN INDICATION THAT LOW TURNOUT OF REGISTERED VOTERS OR NEGATIVE MAJORITY IN CERTAIN PROVINCES BOTHERED PRESIDENT. HE DID LEAVE HIS AUDIENCE WONDERING ABOUT INTENT OF HIS EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. WAS HE IMPLYING ZAMBIA WOULD IN FUTURE DRAW DIRECTLY ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM RUSSIA AND CHINA AS FREEDOM FIGHTERS DOING? WAS HE CONSIDERING COOLING RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH RECENTLY SOLD MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA? OR WAS HE JUST GIVING DELIBERATE VENT TO INDIGNATION
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02240 141630Z

TO FLAG SERIOUSNESS OF BORDER TENSIONS?

7. IN VIEW EXQUISITE UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEXITIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS WHICH KAUNDA EXPRESSED TO CHIEF BUTHELEZI DURING RECENT ZAMBIAN VISIT (SEPTEL, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT DOUBTFUL KAUNDA INTENDS PUSH ZAMBIA INTO ANY VIOLENT OVERTURES IN NEAR FUTURE, THOUGH CONCEPT OF ARMED RESISTANCE LESS ABHORENT TO HIM NOW THAN A YEAR AGO AFTER LOSS OF 20 ZAMBIAN LIVES ALONG ZAMBEZI AND INJURY TO MANY OTHERS, MAINLY FROM LANDMINE EXPLOSIONS. SURELY KAUNDA'S CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

APPARENT WITH HIS ASSUMPTION OF DEFENSE PORTFOLIO, ASSIGNMENT OF ARMED FORCE CHIEFS TO POLICY-MAKING LEVEL, AND TRUSTING HIS MOST COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR, AARON MILNER, WITH HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY AND CONTROL OVER POLICE.

8. LOBBY TALK AFTER ASSEMBLY OPENING WAS LESS CONCERNED WITH IMPORT OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON NATIONAL SECURITY THAN WITH EFFERVESCENT SPECULATION ON ROLE OF CABINET VIS A VIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE. MOST SEEMED TO FEEL POWER WOULD BE WITH BUDGET AND PERSONNEL IN CABINET NOTWITHSTANDING SUPREMACY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNDER NEW CONSITITUTION.
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